

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Even after the creation of the General Staff Academy in 1931, the Frunze Military Academy in Moscow retained its role as the nerve center and military laboratory for all the arms and services of the Soviet Army. The General Staff Academy was created from Frunze, ie it began by taking over some of Frunze's instructors and students, and inherited Frunze's building. The General Staff Academy's enrollment was limited and one could not become a student there merely by requesting it; the General Staff chose the students, who were almost always general officers or colonels. In fact, the General Staff Academy was so much less prominent and smaller than Frunze that many line officers did not even know the former existed. Therefore, Frunze remained the leading military academy of the Army for operational and tactical doctrine for units ranging in size from the infantry squad up to and including the division. Each faculty (kafedra) at Frunze worked on basic questions pertinent to its field of specialization, such as the most efficient size for a unit and the best ratio between heavy weapons and number of infantry soldiers. Some of the students were air force officers and these returned to the air force upon graduation from Frunze. There were no naval officers in attendance.
2. Another indication of the significance of Frunze was that each chief of a faculty (kafedra) at this academy was automatically considered chief member of the technical commission of the appropriate arm or service, such as artillery, tanks, or engineers. The chairman of the commission was the head of the chief administration (glavnaya upravleniya) of the arm or service. Each arm or service had such a commission, which consisted of four

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or five officers. These groups took part in developing new weapons. For example, if a new machine gun were needed, the staff of a war plant would submit designs to the technical commission. If approval were granted, then the plant engineers would make plans for manufacture and would begin production.

3. During the summer, about 60 per cent of the instructors at the Frunze Military Academy were given vacation for the whole summer. Many of these taught at other military academies during this period, as many senior commanding officers (majors and up) of reserve units attended courses during the summer. The officers who were students at Frunze had no summer vacation, except for the usual 30 days of leave granted to all army officers. The summer activities conducted by Frunze were extensive. Students of the two lower courses (first and second years) attended camp, which was located near the town of Nara Phominskaya. This town was on the Moscow-Kiev railway, midway between Moscow and Mala Yaroslavets. It was about 55 km from Moscow. The students - all officers - were at camp from 1 June until 1 September. The students were given practical field work in various sized units and played the roles of enlisted men as well as officers. The size of units was from platoon up to and including battalion. Practice in marksmanship was also emphasized, with such weapons as rifle, revolver, machine gun, and mortar.
4. Students of the senior course (third year) usually went to frontier areas, where they would later be assigned. They were divided into groups of about 15 students, accompanied by one senior instructor plus two or three other instructors. The instructors were chosen for their knowledge of the frontier area in question. The students studied specific areas. They concentrated on terrain and roads. They became acquainted with the economy of the area. They learned its tactical characteristics - possibilities for supply and transportation, whether better suited for offense or defense. They were given tactical problems and required to present solutions. If the area happened to be fortified, the students studied the fortifications and the manner in which troops could defend them.
5. In the summer of 1941, the great majority of the senior students were sent to the western frontier, in order to study that territory as a departure area for the attack on Germany planned by Stalin for September 1941. There was much military construction there at that time: roads were being built from railroads to the frontier, trenches, command posts, gun emplacements. All this was under way as it was expected that the German troops stationed along the frontier of the USSR would provide heavy resistance when the planned Soviet attack came and that static warfare would result initially. Therefore, even the highest ranking general officer (although not the chief) of the Soviet Army Engineers was captured on the first day of the German invasion. He was in that area directing the military construction. He was Lieutenant General (fnu) Karbishev [equivalent to Major General in the US Army], chief of the engineering faculties (kafedri) of the General Staff Academy and of the Frunze Military Academy. As a prisoner of war he was treated fairly well by the Germans until 1945, when he was transferred to a camp in Austria and there killed. A monument was erected in Vienna to his memory in 1948.

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